

OPPOSITION: Burma, Kachin Independence R

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Burma Army

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KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

Report on
Atrocities Committed by the Burma Army
September 26th, 1989

The following report is being submitted as evidence and as an example of how the Burma Army is pillaging and stealing from the civilian population. The following list of incidents took place between June 20th - 25th, 1989, in the KIA 12 Battalion, 3rd Brigade area - east of Bhamo in the Bum San Village Tract, Gin Saw village, and was perpetrated by the Burma Army regiment 109 of the 99 Division.

1. Mr. N Hkum Brang Tawng - Machetes x 4; rice x 1 bushel; chickens x 4.
2. Mrs. Labang Gam - Kyats 100/-; paddy x 4 bushels; (milled) rice x 1 bushel; chickens x 24.
3. Mrs. Pau Sang Naw - Kyats 120; paddy x 10 bushels; rice x 6 bye; salt x 1 viss; chicken x 1.
4. Mr. Mawzet - horse x 1; machete x 4; pots x 1; paddy x 3 bushels; chickens x 15; spades x 16.
5. Mr. Lahpai La San - Machetes x 2; paddy x 10 bushels; salt x 1 viss; chickens x 6; spades x 2.
6. Mr. Labang Gam Chang - Pig x 1; paddy x 3 bushels; rice x 1 bushel; chickens x 16; trousers x 2 pairs; spade x 1.
7. Mr. N Dau Naw - Silver sword x 1; cattle x 1; machete x 2; paddy x 24 bushels; rice x 13 bye; chickens x 8; spade x 1.
8. Mrs. Naw Ja - paddy x 7 bushels; rice x 7 bye; salt x 2 viss; chickens x 2; spade x 2.
9. Mr. N Hkum Yaw - Gold ring x 1; paddy x 6 bushels.
10. Mr. Pau Sang Gam - Silver necklace x 4; tripod x 1; paddy x 10 bushels; rice x 14 bye; chickens x 6.
11. Mr. Labang Htang - Hog x 1; paddy x 10 bushels; salt x 4 viss; chicken x 2.
12. Mr. N Hkum La - Machete x 2; pot x 2; paddy x 10 bushels; rice x 1 bushel; salt x 1 viss; trousers x 1.
13. Mr. Gam Hpung - Cattle x 1; log x 1; paddy x 20; rice x 1 bushel; salt x 5 viss.

14. Mr. N Hkum Naw - Rice x 6 bye; salt x 1 viss.
15. Mr. Labang Rip - Silver jacket x 1; hog x 1; pots x 4; tripod x 1; paddy x 2 bushels; chickens x 4.
16. Elder Tu - Horse x 2; rice x 1 bushel; salt x 2; kettle x 1.
17. Mr. N Hkum Hka - Tripod x 1; paddy x 3 bushel; rice x 1 bushel; chickens x 4.
18. Mr. Lahpai Zau Tang - Hogs x 5; machete x 4; paddy x 3 bushels; salt x 5 viss; chickens x 30; trousers x 4.
19. Mr. Maji Baw Naw - Kyats x 300/-; machete x 5; hogs x 2; pot x 1; paddy x 35 bushels; chickens x 25; shirts x 5; trousers x 2; blankets x 3; kettles x 1; hoe x 1.
20. Mr. Lahpai La Ring - Silver sword x 1; silver necklace x 3; silver jacket x 1; machete x 3; pots x 2; paddy x 3 bushel; rice x 1 bushel; salt x 2 viss; chickens x 5; shirts x 3; blanket x 1.

The enemy Burma Army was returning from operations in the Manje area when they ran short of rice and salt. They confiscated food from the villagers in Gin Saw Village without any words of caution from their commander. In addition, two villagers were killed by the Burma Army. The two murdered villagers were:

1. Mr. Labang Yaw
2. Mr. Labang Rip

BRIEF HISTORY OF KACHINLAND

THE KACHIN

The Kachins were originally descended from Mongolia in BC 200 and reached Tibet around AD 600. They came to Kachinland during AD 700 and inhabited the present area of Kachinland in AD 900. The group that had immigrated to the western part arrived in Assam, India in AD 1160. Among the ancestors came into Kachinland from eastern side, some are still remained in Yunnan province, China.

The people of Kachin use six difference languages, such as, Nung Rawang, Lisu, Lashi, Maru, Zi and Jinghpaw. The population of Kachinland is approximately 2.5 millions. The history of Kachin people is traceable from the beginning of their ancestors with their own culture, religion and sovereignty.

AREA

The area of Kachinland is 48,038 square miles and located between 95.15 degree to 98.47 degree east longitude and 23.17 degree to 28.25 degree north latitude. It is bounded on the east by China, west by India, north by Tibet and on the south by Burma.

FOREIGN AGGRESSION

When the British annexed Burma, over a period of time which extended from 1824 to 1885, the people of Kachinland living united and harmoniously under the rule of their chief Duwas peacefully. The aggression of the British in Kachinland began in 1889 and occupied Bhamo area, southern part of Kachinland. The British formed up Bhamo Military Battalion on the 1st April 1898 and recruited Kachin young men to be their soldiers. This was the first time that Kachinland was annexed by a foreign country. Continuously, the British took portions of Mali Hkrang Wa Lawng (Northern Triangle) and Mali Nmai Wa Lawng (Southern Triangle) during 1904 to 1927 and bought up the slaves of Kachin Chief Duwas. The British started to collect taxes from Kachin people in 1934.

In this way, the annexation of the British extended to one after another part of Kachinland. The British learned from their past experiences that many Kachins have sacrificed their lives to maintain sovereignty and therefore, in order to protect themselves from re-action of Kachin people, the British built strong Forts with stones as their defensive posts. Namely, (1) Fort Hertz in Putao, (2) Fort Harrison in Sadung, (3) Fort Morton in Sama, (4) Fort Na Hpaw, (5) Fort Alaw Bum and (6) Fort Ura Bum. The names of Fort No. 2 and 3 refer to the names of British officers who were killed in those places. After the independence of Burma, the Burmese troops were posted in those Forts. Some of those Forts were partially destroyed during the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) driving out Burmese troops from them.

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The British rapidly came to understand the Kachin people as a highly successful fighting race. They recruited Kachins and put them into the army. The British sent Kachin soldiers to Europe and Middle-east during the 1st World War. The locations of their activities were, Germany, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Palestine (Israel), Qualatsale, Amara and Busra. Some of them remained there up to 1922. There were 59 casualties and 133 wounded out of 428 Kachin troops.

The British accepted the original autonomy of the Kachin people and in return, they received taxes and provided perimeters of defence. In this manner, the British accommodated themselves to centuries of practices of self defence and independence. The British then consolidated their position by supporting selected leaders. They set up different frontier administration for the hill states unlike Burma, allowing the Duwas of Kachinland, rights and privileges with full autonomy of internal administration.

SECOND WORLD WAR

The Japanese bombed Myitkyina, the capital of Kachinland on the 8th of May 1942 and occupied it. The British withdrew their troops to India in June 1942. However, under the leaders of Duwas, Kachin people struggled in fighting against the Japanese to protect their autonomy as they fought the British in the early days to protect their sovereignty. The British appreciated the resistance of Kachin people, and returned to Kachinland in August of the same year from India and formed Kachin Levy Unit for joint-operation. Based upon the principal of Military Alliance, the Americans also came in and formed a Kachin Ranger Unit to assist the British. Kachins joined both Levy and Ranger Units.

At the end of II World War, while the Burmese were demanding independence from the British, the Kachins also demanded independence from the British individually, during which period the Kachin people were united without dissidence under chief Duwas. The British advised the Kachin leaders to take independence in 10 years as a Kachinland needed development during such a period of time. The Burmese leaders then approached the Kachin leaders who failed to understand the tactics of the Burmese and agreement was reached to give the Kachin leaders the rights and privileges as well as full autonomy in the internal administration and the right of secession after 10 years of independence the same way as the British promised. An unfortunate experience of the Second World War also made the Kachin leaders believed in the Burmese inducement, the Kachins joined the Burmese in demanding independence for the Union of Burma.

KACHIN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (PART ONE)

Soon after, the Kachin people suffered under severe oppression and injustice of the Burmese government. Gen. Naw Seng, once the British army officer who received BGM award, transferred to the 1st Kachin Rifles after Burma gained independence, and led the Kachin Revolutionary organization on 19th November 1949 under the name of Pawng

Yawng National Defence Force (PNDF). Based upon the limitation of time, before Gen. Naw Seng could take sufficient preparation and organization among Kachin people as political background, the situation forced him into exile in China with part of his troops (about 300) in 1950 and the movement of PNDP lost its force.

KACHIN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (PART TWO)

After Burma gained independence and at the end of 10 years of such independence, the Burmese leaders failed to keep their promises one after another. Thereby, the freedom and progress of Kachin people totally disappeared. The Kachin people realizing the Burmese national superiority and domination decided to free themselves from the Burmese yoke and to form a sovereign independence Kachinland.

Gen. Zau Seng, a veteran World War II military commander, former leader of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) was Brigade Major at the 1st Brigade of PNDP and later joined the Karen National Defence Organization (KNDO), the Karen revolutionary organization after Gen. Naw Seng was exiled in China. Since 1957, Kachin University and High School students and Kachin soldiers in the Burma army were secretly organized by Gen. Zau Seng to begin the Kachin freedom movement. After consulting with the Karen leaders, he separated from KNDO in 1958 and travelled to Kachinland.

Mr. Brang Seng, Chairman of KIO was the Principal of a High School in Myitkyina during that period. He could reach every level of the Kachin people and organized young people, Duwas and respected elders and tried to enlarge the Kachin underground movement.

Gen. Zau Mai, Vice Chairman of KIO as well as Chief of Staff of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Mr. Pungshui Zau Seng, former General Secretary of KIO were University students in Rangoon at that time. They endeavoured to organize university students and started to demand legislative rights for the Kachin people at the Parliament under U Nu, the then Prime Minister of the Burmese government.

All the Kachin freedom movement leaders who had been separately organizing the Kachin people in different places secretly met together in 1959 and agreed to form the Kachin Independence Organization. After that, they cooperatively organized the people and upon the completion of their preparation, they formalized KIO and formed the Kachin Independence Army on the 5th of February 1961. On the same day they convened mass Kachin people and declared that the Kachin Independence Organization and the Kachin Independence Army had been formed to resist the Burmese national superiority in order to bring genuine freedom to the Kachin people.

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KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION
REPORT ON
ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE BURMA ARMY
AUGUST 30th, 1989

DEATH-MARCH OF STUDENTS

During the past 2 months, approximately 500 students arbitrarily arrested during last year's demonstrations were taken from prison and consequently in early August 1989, were loaded onto big trucks and transported to Lashio from Rangoon via Mandalay. On August 5th, the students were further blindfolded and moved in big trucks from Lashio to Namdu in the northern Shan State.

Meanwhile, Burma Army troops from the 99 division active in the KIA 8 battalion area confiscated 80 bushels of rice from a Bangkang Palawng elder named Bu Aung after falsely accusing him of keeping rice belonging to the KIA. The Burma Army then forced the students to carry the rice from Mungmo to Namdu after tying their hands and their feet (to each other), stripping them naked even without footwear, and force marching them through rain and storm across the jungle trails. Those who stumbled and fell and were unable to march were brutally beaten to death and left behind.

On August 12th, a porter escaped and reported seeing with his own eyes 14 students who died after being beaten by the Burma Army. He also said that, at least 3-4 persons died every day from severe beatings and mistreatment. The porter also overheard the Burma Army guards say that the students were being tormented to death in this way - away from the towns and cities and in the jungles and mountains, - to avoid publicity because they were afraid the news would be reported to the BBC.

The civilians living along the Mungmo-Namdu road report that they are unable to do their own work because they are forced to gather and bury the dead students along the trail. The person reporting this to the KIO district office estimates that by August 25th, all the students will have been killed off. He also reports having seen 90 dead students with his own eyes.

* END OF REPORT *

September 9, 1989

KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

Report on
Atrocities Committed by the Burma Army
September 26th, 1989

The following report is being submitted as evidence and as an example of how the Burma Army is pillaging and stealing from the civilian population. The following list of incidents took place between June 20th - 25th, 1989, in the KIA 12 Battalion, 3rd Brigade area - east of Bhamo in the Bum San Village Tract, Gin Saw village, and was perpetrated by the Burma Army regiment 109 of the 99 Division.

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5. Mr. Lahpai La San - Machetes x 2; paddy x 10 bushels; salt x 1 viss; chickens x 6; spades x 2.
6. Mr. Labang Gam Chang - Pig x 1; paddy x 3 bushels; rice x 1 bushel; chickens x 16; trousers x 2 pairs; spade x 1.
7. Mr. N Dau Naw - Silver sword x 1; cattle x 1; machete x 2; paddy x 24 bushels; rice x 13 bye; chickens x 8; spade x 1.
8. Mrs. Naw Ja - paddy x 7 bushels; rice x 7 bye; salt x 2 viss; chickens x 2; spade x 2.
9. Mr. N Hkum Yaw - Gold ring x 1; paddy x 6 bushels.
10. Mr. Pau Sang Gam - Silver necklace x 4; tripod x 1; paddy x 10 bushels; rice x 14 bye; chickens x 6.
11. Mr. Labang Htang - Hog x 1; paddy x 10 bushels; salt x 4 viss; chicken x 2.
12. Mr. N Hkum La - Machete x 2; pot x 2; paddy x 10 bushels; rice x 1 bushel; salt x 1 viss; trousers x 1.
13. Mr. Gam Ppung - Cattle x 1; hog x 1; paddy x 20; rice x 1 bushel; salt x 5 viss.

KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

REPORT OF

ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE BURMA ARMY

March 31st, 1989

A. Incidents of Rape by the Burma Army in Western Kachinland.

1. NAME :Labya Roi Ji
AGE :20 years old
SEX :Female
HOME :Loi Seng village, Kap Maw Ninghtawn
LOCATION :Ka Htang Yang Burma Army Post
DATE :May 20th, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 38, army medic Tin Myint
SPECIFICS :Miss Roi Ji was taken into the Burma Army camp where she was raped by the soldiers in one of the bunkers.

2. NAME :Nhkum Ja Kai
AGE :18 years old
SEX :Female
HOME :Loi Seng village, Kap Maw Ninghtawn
LOCATION :Ka Htang Yang Burma Army Post
DATE :May 20th, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 38 and army medic Tin Myint
SPECIFICS :Miss Ja Kai was taken into the Burma Army camp where she was raped by the soldiers in one of the bunkers.

B. Report of Kachin villagers arrested and tortured by the Burma Army

1. NAME :Slg. (village elder, Salang) Yaw Bawm
AGE :45 years old
SEX :Male
HOME :Loi Seng village
LOCATION :Police station
DATE :January 25th, 1986
AGENCY/UNIT :Unknown
SPECIFICS :Mr. Yaw Bawm was brutally beaten in an attempt to force him to show the police the location of his granary.

NAME :Sgt. Dawshi La
 AGE :37 years old
 SEX :Male
 HOME :Lai Beng village
 LOCATION :Inside the police station
 DATE :January 25th, 1986
 AGENCY/UNIT :Unknown
 SPECIFICS :Mr. Dawshi La was brutally beaten in an attempt to force him to show the police the location of his granary.

NAME :Sgt. Hkwi Maung
 AGE :30 years old
 SEX :Male
 HOME :Nam Ya village
 LOCATION :Hka Dan river
 DATE :July 21st, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 40, Lt. Te Za Tau
 SPECIFICS :Mr. Hkwi Maung was brutally beaten because the army unit had some casualties from anti-personnel mines during a clash with the freedom fighters.

NAME :Sgt. U Tin Aye
 AGE :34 years old
 SEX :male
 HOME :Shong Wa village
 LOCATION :along the Lung dong motor road
 DATE :November 26th, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 27
 SPECIFICS :Mr. U Tin Aye was accused of spying and was stripped and beaten brutally by the Burma Army.

C. Report of Kachin villagers tortured and killed by the Burma Army

NAME :Sgt. Kamai Zau Naw
 AGE :28 years old
 SEX :Male
 HOME :Bali Yang village, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 LOCATION :Chyaring village, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 DATE :September 18th, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 37
 SPECIFICS :Mr. Zau Naw was killed in the village

1. NAME :1st. Dumbaw La
 AGE :40 years old
 SEX :male
 HOME :Belt Yang village, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 LOCATION :Chyaring village, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 DATE :September 18th, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 37
 SPECIFICS :Mr. Dumbaw La was shot down when the Burma Army entered the village.

2. NAME :Sgt. Wa Ndu Lau Hkum
 AGE :40 years old
 SEX :male
 HOME :Du Kantawng village, Myitkyina
 LOCATION :Chyaring village, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 DATE :September 18th, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 37
 SPECIFICS :Mr. Lau Hkum was shot in cold blood when the Burma Army entered the village.

4. NAME :Sgt. Nkawk La Tawng
 AGE :30 years old
 SEX :Male
 HOME :Hka Tawng Kawng, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 LOCATION :Chyaring village, Bum Wai Ninghtawn
 DATE :September 18th, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 37
 SPECIFICS :Mr. La Tawng was shot to death by Burmese soldiers.

5. NAME :Sgt. Nhkum Naw
 AGE :35 years old
 SEX :Male
 HOME :Maing Shi village, Myitkyina
 LOCATION :Shwi Zet village, Nawng Nang Ninghtawn
 DATE :October 21st, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 37
 SPECIFICS :Mr. Nhkum Naw was killed in the village.

6. NAME :Ms. Lazun Ma Ji
 AGE :20 years old
 SEX :Female
 HOME :Shwi Zet village, Nawng Nang Ninghtawn, Myitkyina
 LOCATION :Shwi Zet village, Nawng Nang Ninghtawn
 DATE :October 21st, 1987
 AGENCY/UNIT :Burma Army Regiment 37, 4th Platoon
 SPECIFICS :Ms. Ma Ji was brutally beaten to death

NAME	: Mr. Galau La
AGE	: 30 years old
SEX	: Male
HOME	: Seng Ra Yang village, Seng Da Ninghtawn
LOCATION	: Seng Ra Yang village, Seng Da Ninghtawn
DATE	: November 14th, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT	: Burma Army Regiment 36
SPECIFICS	: Mr. Galau La was shot to death
8. NAME	: Mrs. Laintawng Lu
AGE	: 50 years old
SEX	: Female
HOME	: Seng Ra Yang village, Seng Da Ninghtawn
LOCATION	: Seng Ra Yang village, Seng Da Ninghtawn
DATE	: December 1st, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT	: Burma Army Regiment 36
SPECIFICS	: Mrs. Laintawng Lu was shot to death
9. NAME	: Maran Ja Naw
AGE	: 18 years old
SEX	: Male
HOME	: Seng Ra Yang village, Seng Da Ninghtawn
LOCATION	: Seng Ra Yang village, Seng Da Ninghtawn
DATE	: December 1st, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT	: Burma Army Regiment 36
SPECIFICS	: Little Ja Naw was shot to death by the Burmese soldiers
10. NAME	: Sgt. Dingrin Gam
AGE	: 80 years old
SEX	: Male
HOME	: Nam Ya village, Kap Maw Ninghtawn
LOCATION	: Nam Ya village, Kap Maw Ninghtawn
DATE	: November 4th, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT	: Burma Army Regiment 50 and 105
SPECIFICS	: Mr. Dingrin Gam was stabbed to death by Burmese soldiers
11. NAME	: Sgt. Ungsau Nawng
AGE	: 54 years old
SEX	: Male
HOME	: Nam Da Ra village
LOCATION	: In the middle of a paddy field, Nam Da Ra village
DATE	: August 16th, 1987
AGENCY/UNIT	: Burma Army Regiment 16
SPECIFICS	: Mr. Ungsau Nawng was shot to death while working in his paddy field by Burmese soldiers

NAME : Mr. Naw Ja
 AGE : 27 years old
 SEX : Male
 HOME : Bum Rawng village, Lama Bum Ninghtawn, Hpa-ant, Chin State
 LOCATION : Shang Hka village
 DATE : March 18th, 1986
 AGENCY/UNIT : Burma Army Regiment 21
 SPECIFICS : Mr. Naw Ja was shot to death by Burmese soldiers

13. NAME : Sgt. Mvihtoi Zau Ra
 AGE : 27 years old
 SEX : Male
 HOME : Bum Nan village, Lama Bum Ninghtawn
 LOCATION : Lung Ga Yang village
 DATE : March 21st, 1986
 AGENCY/UNIT : Burma Army Regiment 21
 SPECIFICS : Mr. Zau Ra was shot to death by Burmese soldiers

14. NAME : Ms. Hkawn Shawng
 AGE : 31 years old
 SEX : Female
 HOME : Taw Maw village, Lama Bum Ninghtawn
 LOCATION : near village
 DATE : March 21st, 1986
 AGENCY/UNIT : Burma Army Regiment 21
 SPECIFICS : Ms. Hkawn Shawng was shot and killed while trying to flee from the Burmese soldiers

15. NAME : Sgt. Hpauyam Shawng
 AGE : 30
 SEX : Male
 HOME : Kap Maw village, Kap Maw Ninghtawn
 LOCATION : Dan Yi Nong village
 DATE : April 9th, 1986
 AGENCY/UNIT : Burma Army Regiment 27
 SPECIFICS : Mr. Hpauyam Shawng was killed by Burmese soldiers for allegedly having been a sergeant in the KIA

D. Report of property destroyed and cash stolen by the Burma Army in
Kachinland

1. Estimated stolen/destroyed property and cash
value from the Western Administrative District
of Kachinland, June/87-June/88.....Ks. 686,140.00
 2. Estimated stolen/destroyed property and cash
value from the Southern Administrative District
of Kachinland, Jan.-Dec., 1987.....Ks. 54,177.00
-
- Ks. 740,317.00

KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

REPORT OF

ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE BURMA ARMY

JUNE 16TH, 1989

The following firsthand or eyewitness account by a "Returnee from Hell" was taken from a man who was conscripted as a porter by the Burma Army during operations this past summer against Kachin liberated areas in the Loiye area. The name is being withheld for security reasons but is available on request.

RETURNEE FROM HELL

I am hereby recounting my experiences as a captured porter for the Burma Army and the method by which I was subjected together with the working people and my brothers and sisters of Kachinland.

On May 7, 1989, I was travelling by train on a business trip from Myitkyina to Mogoung, when on arrival at my destination, our entire train was surrounded by Burma Army soldiers and all the passengers were transferred to the freight train in the railway yard which were already loaded with various material including bitumin and phosphates. We were kept inside for four days without food and unable to sit down because it was so crowded. The heat and sweat became unbearable. Some of us were able to beg for water from the townspeople who came close enough. The soldiers charged Kyat 5 for water and Kyat 15 for a packet of rice that normally sells for Kyat 8. Those who had no money were without food for 4 days. The chemicals on board, mixed with human sweat and the heat from the scorching sun on the railway cars, became extremely volatile. Soon all the porters developed sunburn and sores. Many collapsed from exhaustion and hunger.

At noon on the fifth day, we arrived on two train-loads at Katha. We were then transported by trucks to the river port landing and put on board 28 boats and confined to the lower decks. Again there as no ventilation as they were boarded up from above where the soldiers stood guard. They however gave us some plain rice handed down in Hangko pots to be shared by two persons per container. We then landed at Shwekyina and were quartered at the Buddhist monastery and had our food at 4 pm. We spent three days there. On the second day, the Burma Army regiment commander named Major Kyaw Khin addressed the more than 5,300 porters regarding the rules by which they must henceforth follow. We were told to eat what was given, do what was told, go where told to go and if anyone had ideas about escaping, it would be settled by the muzzle of the gun. Then he added by saying that previously there was the People's council, but now there was nothing to restrain the Army and that it

would not hesitate to kill. Therefore, he continued, "If you are ordered to turn right and you turn left, be prepared to die. I'll just point a finger and there will be a pile of dead bodies, remember that!"

On the fifth day at 9 am we were put on trucks and taken to our next destination, Momauk. This is a Kachin town. There the soldiers had already assembled supplies of ration, munitions, field artillery pieces, etc., all neatly apportioned for the single or grouped porters to carry on their shoulders. They were very heavy. The Burma Army involved were the 120th, 40th, and the 47th Burma Regiments, the 56th, and the 38th Light Infantry Regiments, the 1st Kachin and the 2nd Chin Regiments, and regiments from the 33rd Division. The porters were assigned and divided to serve these accordingly. Many porters were seen in tears as friends and relatives became separated. All these porters numbering a total of 5,300 persons were from Myitkyina district, Wainmaw district, Namti and Mogaung districts, Mohnyin, Hopin, and Katha districts, as well as from Shwegu and Bhamo districts. They were all residents of Kachinland. Their ages ranged from 14-70 years as the old and the feeble were told that they would be used to clear the minefields. Of the 5,300 porters, 350 or more were women. They were repeatedly raped by the soldiers.

Having loaded up the porters, the journey began around noon that day. After travelling for an hour along the motor road, we began to scale a high rocky mountain. The lack of water on the mountain, combined with the heavy loads resulted in 48 people being abandoned when they collapsed. There were constant sounds of gunfire as soldiers went after those porters who, unable to bear the suffering any further, decided to take a chance at escaping into the jungles. Over 100 dead bodies of recaptured and executed porters were displayed along the roadside as examples. As we reached half-way up the rocky mountain a pregnant woman gave birth. A Burma Army sergeant had said before the delivery, "if it is a a baby boy we will be victorious, but if it is a girl, we will be defeated!" He became enraged when the baby turned out to be a girl and he told the woman she was useless and loaded her with munitions and forced her to move immediately, even before the afterbirth was delivered. The child was stillborn because of the stress. In addition, the sergeant yanked the dead child from where it was still attached to the mother by the umbilical cord and beat the dead child and flung it away into the jungles. The woman died later. Fully 90 out of 100 porters by this time had suffered from beatings and were swollen. During a brief stop, a soldier was playing with his rifle which went off and killed a girl who was hit in the head. Of this, I am an eyewitness.

Now that we were well into our fortieth day, an average of ten porters died each day from malnutrition, hunger, beatings, and from exposure to the elements. We were denied rice to eat, and had to rely on roots and leaves gathered from the jungle. My group was responsible for carrying heavy weapons including 120mm, 81mm, 75mm mortars and recoilless rifles as well as .5 AA machine guns. I cannot determine the fate of other groups but over 60 people died from my group of porters. We finally reached the vicinity of Loiye when the first battle took place.

During the battle, the soldiers crouched behind and sent the porters to the front as shields and minesweepers. We were constantly carrying munitions, and resupplying shells for mortars and launchers. In the midst of battle many porters escaped, those recaptured were executed outright. We were given a handful of rice once in the morning and once in the evening. The soldiers however had biscuits, condensed milk, corned beef, sardines, and assorted rations. They asked the porters to fetch water from the valleys but refused to give them water later. The commander came around to ask if the porters had been given food and the soldiers lied and said that they had been given food.

One day a 60-year-old Kachin man who had been beaten constantly by a soldier over the course of the journey was unable to carry the heavy load any further and collapsed. He begged for mercy and leniency but to no avail. Having come to the end of his endurance, he took out a hidden dagger and lunged at the soldier, wounding him seriously. The soldier immediately shot him to death.

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KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION
REPORT ON
ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE BURMA ARMY
SEPTEMBER 15th, 1989

The following report of atrocities was received from an eye-witness who visited the northern Shan State area recently. The account further corroborates the earlier report of a death-march.

The Strategy and Tactics of the Saw Maung Regime
Against the Students and Masses Supporting

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The students along with the people's of the Union of Burma gave their support to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's call for the formation of a democratic government through the process of free and fair elections. When these demands were made to the Rangoon regime they were arrested and put into the prison in Rangoon. The regime was afraid that if they tortured and killed these prisoners in the Rangoon prison that the news would leak out and the whole world would learn of their brutal suppression so they schemed and took their prisoners to torture and kill them in the battle fields and in the mountains and jungles far away.

Over 100 student prisoners were forced to carry weapons and rations for the Burma Army 4th Kachin Rifle regiment under the command of Major Tin Lat who faked operations in the Mo Mik and Ku Dawng Bum area. The students were further beaten and tortured when they collapsed from hunger and fatigue from carrying the heavy loads. On June 21st, 1989, a student was beaten to death by the Burma Army under a banyan tree near the village of Yawng Htawk, Mae Mik Township, Kyant Mae District in the northern Shan State. The village dogs found the dead body first and had torn off parts of the limbs and head of the decomposing body. The villagers later gathered up the remains and buried the body where they found it. The villagers saw that the students who were still alive were being kicked, and beaten, and that they had horrible sores and blisters all over their bodies and that they were starving from lack of food and drink. After seeing the condition of the students the villagers were doubtful that the students could survive if they were further made to carry loads.

It was later learned that Major Tin Lat and the 4th Kachin Rifles returned to the town of Namtu without the accompanying students who had been forced to carry their loads. It is assumed that the 100 or so students were killed and abandoned by the Burma Army during their so called "operation".

On August 15th, 1989, about 700 men from General Saw Maung's 99th Division of the Burma Army were seen leading about 250 student prisoners to the village of Man Tawng in the Namtu district. One student prisoner died on August 16th 1989, as a result of injuries sustained from torture and beatings during his confinement in the Rangoon (Insein) prison and due to lack of food. The remaining students were also seen to be suffering from wounds and sores as a result of torture and beatings by the Burma Army. The villagers attempted to help the students and tended to their wounds and sores and gave them clothes to wear. The cruel soldiers later stripped the clothes off of the students and made them carry loads naked.

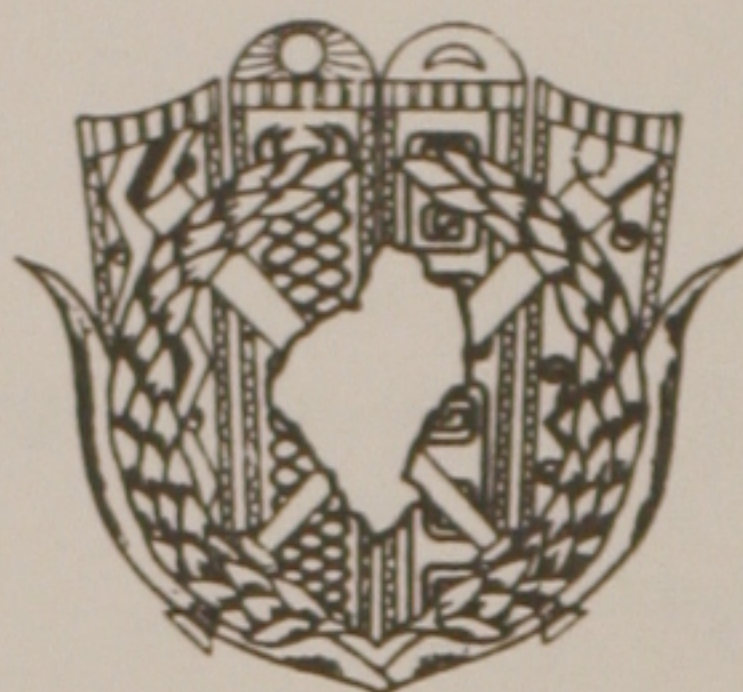
The students were later used as porters to carry rice (paddy) confiscated by the Burma Army belonging to the farmers of the villages of Dagu, Man Awn, Salu, and Loi Lawm to the Burma Army camp at the village of Man Tawng. The Burma Army claimed they had confiscated rice belonging to the C.P.B. (Communist Party of Burma) 102 regiment.

On August 20th, 1989, a group of about 500 Rangoon students were seen, having been brought by a convoy of Burma Army trucks covered by tarp from Rangoon to the town of Namtu. The student prisoners were tied together and kept on the Namtu football field during the day and during the night exposed to the heat of the sun and cold of the rain. They were forced to eat food (rice) placed in the palm of their hands.

The student prisoners were forced to carry rice (paddy) confiscated from the peasant farmers from the villagers of Bang Kang, Lin Maw, Hkau Kang, Nam Yum and Pang Kut in the Namtu area. The Burma Army beat to death a village elder and his wife from the village of Bang Kang and they ransacked the village killing and taking the livestock and raped and defrauded the women.

I later saw returning student prisoners being tied up and kept on the football field in the town of Namtu.

Reported by: M. Lagang Gam
Eye Witness to the above
Account of Atrocities
September 12, 1989



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

18 February 1988

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION (KIO)

International news agencies and the World Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported on 17th February 1988 that the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) government in Rangoon has accused our organization of being responsible for a bomb blast in the town of Momauk, Kachin State on 12th February 1988. 12 people were killed and 133 wounded in the attack which took place during a Union Day celebration at Momauk school, according to the official report.

The Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) has already ordered an inquiry into the incident in order to identify and punish the real culprits of this ghastly and cowardly attack on innocent school children - our organization was definitely not behind this bomb blast.

It is hardly a coincidence that the blast occurred shortly after the KIO has launched a campaign to raise awareness internationally of the human rights situation in Burma - and international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, the Anti-Slavery Society and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples have published detailed reports of atrocities committed by the Burma Army of the ruling BSPP military dictatorship.

This is a clumsily orchestrated attempt at discrediting the KIO and at trying to drive a wedge between our organization and the international community as well as the people of Kachin State. We are aware of several similar incidents in the past when the Burma Army has planted bombs in crowded places and then blamed it on the democratic resistance forces that oppose the military dictatorship in our country. This recent bomb blast in Momauk fits into the same pattern. It is also revealing that the official media in Rangoon even has accused the KIO of setting off a mine during a film show in Kengtung on 7th February 1988, wounding 17 people; our forces do not even operate in the Kengtung area which is located in south-eastern Shan State.

The KIO strongly opposes this kind of terrorist acts and denies any involvement in the Momauk bomb blast. We express our deep sympathy with the bereaved families and promise them that we shall spare no efforts to identify the cowards who do not even hesitate to kill children in order to obtain cheap political victories.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'M. Brang Seng'.

M. Brang Seng
Chairman of Kachin Independence Organization
Presidium Member of the National Democratic Front (NDF) of Burma

KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

REPORT OF

ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE BURMA ARMY

JUNE 16TH, 1989

The following firsthand or eyewitness account by a "Returnee from Hell" was taken from a man who was conscripted as a porter by the Burma Army during operations this past summer against Kachin liberated areas in the Loiye area. The name is being withheld for security reasons but is available on request.

RETURNEE FROM HELL

I am hereby recounting my experiences as a captured porter for the Burma Army and the method by which I was subjected together with the working people and my brothers and sisters of Kachinland.

On May 7, 1989, I was travelling by train on a business trip from Myitkyina to Mogoung, when on arrival at my destination, our entire train was surrounded by Burma Army soldiers and all the passengers were transferred to the freight train in the railway yard which were already loaded with various material including bitumin and phosphates. We were kept inside for four days without food and unable to sit down because it was so crowded. The heat and sweat became unbearable. Some of us were able to beg for water from the townspeople who came close enough. The soldiers charged Kyat 5 for water and Kyat 15 for a packet of rice that normally sells for Kyat 8. Those who had no money were without food for 4 days. The chemicals on board, mixed with human sweat and the heat from the scorching sun on the railway cars, became extremely volatile. Soon all the porters developed sunburn and sores. Many collapsed from exhaustion and hunger.

At noon on the fifth day, we arrived on two train-loads at Katha. We were then transported by trucks to the river port landing and put on board 28 boats and confined to the lower decks. Again there as no ventilation as they were boarded up from above where the soldiers stood guard. They however gave us some plain rice handed down in Hangko pots to be shared by two persons per container. We then landed at Shwekyina and were quartered at the Buddhist monastery and had our food at 4 pm. We spent three days there. On the second day, the Burma Army regiment commander named Major Kyaw Khin addressed the more than 5,000 porters regarding the rules by which they must henceforth follow. We were told to eat what was given, do what was told, go where told to go and if anyone had ideas about escaping, it would be settled by the muzzle of the gun. Then he added by saying that previously there was the People's council, but now there was nothing to restrain the Army and that it

would not hesitate to kill. Therefore, he continued, "If you are ordered to turn right and you turn left, be prepared to die. I'll just point a finger and there will be a pile of dead bodies, remember that!"

On the fifth day at 9 am we were put on trucks and taken to our next destination, Momauk. This is a Kachin town. There the soldiers had already assembled supplies of ration, munitions, field artillery pieces, etc., all neatly apportioned for the single or grouped porters to carry on their shoulders. They were very heavy. The Burma Army involved were the 120th, 40th, and the 47th Burma Regiments, the 56th, and the 38th Light Infantry Regiments, the 1st Kachin and the 2nd Chin Regiments, and regiments from the 33rd Division. The porters were assigned and divided to serve these accordingly. Many porters were seen in tears as friends and relatives became separated. All these porters numbering a total of 5,000 persons were from Myitkyina district, Wainmaw district, Nanti and Mogaung districts, Mohnyin, Hopin, and Katha districts, as well as from Shwegu and Bhamo districts. They were all residents of Kachinland. Their ages ranged from 14-70 years as the old and the feeble were told that they would be used to clear the minefields. Of the 5,000 porters, 350 or more were women. They were repeatedly raped by the soldiers.

Having put loads on the porters, the journey began around noon that day. After travelling for an hour along the motor road, we began to scale a high rocky mountain. The lack of water on the mountain, combined with the heavy loads resulted in 48 people being abandoned when they collapsed. There were constant sounds of gunfire as soldiers went after those porters who, unable to bear the suffering any further, decided to take a chance at escaping into the jungles. Over 100 dead bodies of recaptured and executed porters were displayed along the roadside as examples. As we reached half-way up the rocky mountain a pregnant woman gave birth. A Burma Army sergeant had said before the delivery, "if it is a baby boy we will be victorious, but if it is a girl, we will be defeated!" He became enraged when the baby turned out to be a girl and he told the woman she was useless and loaded her with munitions and forced her to move immediately, even before the afterbirth was delivered. The child was stillborn because of the stress. In addition, the sergeant yanked the dead child from where it was lying, still attached to the mother by the umbilical cord, and smashed the dead child and flung it away into the jungles. The woman died later. Fully 90 out of 100 porters by this time had suffered from beatings and were swollen. During a brief stop, a soldier was playing with his rifle which went off and killed a girl who was hit in the head. Of this, I am an eyewitness.

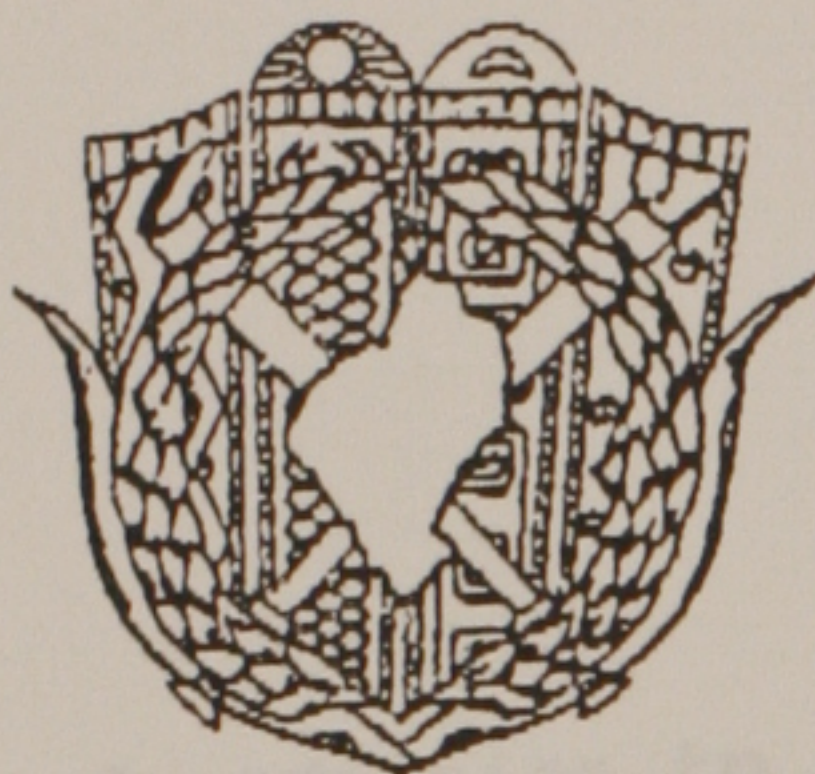
Now that we were well into our fortieth day, an average of ten porters died each day from malnutrition, hunger, beatings, and from exposure to the elements. We were denied rice to eat, and had to rely on roots and leaves gathered from the jungle. My group was responsible for carrying heavy weapons including 120mm, 81mm, 75mm mortars and recoilless rifles as well as .5 AA machine guns. I cannot determine the fate of other groups but over 60 people died from my group of porters. We finally reached the vicinity of Loiye when the first battle took place.

During the battle, the soldiers crouched behind and sent the porters to the front as shields and mine sweepers. We were constantly carrying munitions, and resupplying shells for mortars and launchers. In the midst of battle many porters escaped, those recaptured were executed outright. We were given a handful of rice once in the morning and once in the evening. The soldiers however had biscuits, condensed milk, corned beef, sardines, and assorted rations. They asked the porters to fetch water from the valleys but refused to give them water later. The commander came around to ask if the porters had been given food and the soldiers lied and said that they had been given food.

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE
KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

OPIUM STATEMENT

This statement is being issued by the Kachin Independence Organization (K.I.O.) of Burma in order to attempt to both explain and to dispel the misunderstanding that has arisen between the ethnic peoples of Burma and the Government of the United States over the production and suppression of opium.

Burma, once the world's largest exporter of rice, has become its largest exporter of opium. According to the United States Department of State, over 1,000 metric tons of opium were produced in Burma during the 1986/1987 growing season. The K.I.O. and its allies in the National Democratic Front (N.D.F.) of Burma, share the United States' desire to eradicate opium from Burma. Opium has distorted our nation's economy, and opium addiction has the potential to do our people more harm than all the wars they have survived. But the N.D.F. believes that in assisting the Government of Burma in the aerial eradication of opium in the midst of a civil war, the United States has embraced the wrong friend and attacked the wrong enemy. The policy has failed to control the production of opium in Burma and has hurt the cause of Burmese people fighting for democracy. The K.I.O. calls upon the United States to rethink its strategy, because the Burmese people deserve America's compassion and the American people deserve an effective drug control effort.

Today, opium grows in a number of regions of northern Burma. In the Kachinland, opium is grown in the sparsely populated highland region east of the Bhamo-Myitkyina Road. In the rest of Kachinland where rice can easily be cultivated, poppy production is prohibited by the Kachin Independence Organization, which administers the area. In fact, under K.I.O. administration opium production has gradually disappeared from most of the Kachinland. The K.I.O. has banned opium poppy cultivation in its 1st and 2nd Brigade (or Northern and Western) Regions. In these areas the soil is relatively rich, and large deposits of gold, jade, rubies, and sapphires provide additional income to rural people. The K.I.O. exempts local gold prospectors (in the Triangle) from its normal tax, provided they stop growing opium. The K.I.O. has educated its people about the dangers of addiction, and sentences those who sell or smoke opium to hard labor.

Opium cultivation is more widespread in the Shan State. Poppies are grown in the hills east of Kutkai, southeast of Lashio in the Tanyan area, in the northern and southern Wa Hills, including the Ho-Pang and Ming Mai areas, in the Kokang State, and in the Paunglaung area south of Kalaw. The soil in these highland areas is generally nutrient poor, and continued political uncertainty in the Shan State makes effective administration of the area difficult.

Opium is harvested in January and February, when farmers begin selling their crop to private traders. The substance is sold to larger traders as it passes overland towards the Southern Shan States, where it is refined into heroin and sold once again to businessmen on the Thai/Laotian side of the border.

In addition to private traders, there are a few non-N.D.F. groups in opposition to the Burmese Government who are involved in the transportation and refining stages.

The organizations represented in the N.D.F. do not traffic opium. No significant amounts of opium pass through areas controlled by the Karen National Union, the Karenni National Progressive Party, and the New Mon State Party. The Kachin Independence Organization and the Shan State Progress Party do tax trade and commerce within the areas they control. The K.I.O. taxes land, including land on which opium is grown, and the Shan State Progress Party taxes caravans carrying opium passing through the Shan State. Taxation has a long historical precedent. The highland peoples of Burma have only rarely been able to break even by growing rice alone. Instead, they have survived through the years by relying on other sources of income, including the mining of gold, precious stones, and jade, and the taxation of valley trading routes. Neither the K.I.O. nor the S.S.P.P. organize caravans that carry opium, nor do they buy or sell opium at any stage of the economic chain. The only exception to this rule is the opium used locally to tame elephants, treat horses, and small amounts used for medication, i.e., as pain killer, anti-diarrheal medication, and as cold medicine by Kachin officers and medics.

Opium is a traditional crop in Burma, but its production was miniscule before the Second World War. That conflict, and the conflicts that followed it, taught us a lesson: that war and opium go together. It began in 1943, when American and British troops invaded North Burma to drive out the Japanese. Many of Burma's ethnic peoples fought for the Allies. Among them were the Kachin Rangers and the Kachin Levies. They were supported by an irregular army of local Kachin porters, scouts, and intelligence officers, brave and essential personnel who were paid by the Allies not in cash, but in opium. After the war, the Chinese Kuomintang entered Burma and financed its military operations by growing and selling opium. To suppress the KMT, the Burmese Government recruited members of the hill tribes into militia forces known as the Ka Kwe Ye (K.K.Y.). One of the first K.K.Y. commanders was Chan Shee-Fu, or Khun Sa. In return for their service, the Government allowed the K.K.Y. to traffic in opium. During the Vietnam War, covert French and American operations in Laos were partially financed by opium. American soldiers stationed in Vietnam provided a market for heroin, and the first refineries in the Golden Triangle were set up in approximately 1969. Throughout this period opium production in Burma grew, increasing from less than 10 tons before World War II to over 1,000 today.

To get rid of opium one must first understand it. One must understand especially the political, social, and economic factors that have contributed to this enormous rise in production. As best we can see it, those factors are as follows:

1. War and Violence

First of all, the current civil war has driven rural people away from their homes and farms and into the highlands. As has been extensively documented by Amnesty International, when Burma Army troops enter ethnic minority villages,

they often commit acts of murder and torture, and conscript villagers as porters and as human mine sweepers. Many people have no choice but to flee, and when they set up temporary settlements in isolated areas with poor soil they only survive by turning to quick, easy-to-grow cash crops like opium.

The civil war has disrupted ordinary trade and made the economic future of most rural people uncertain. The war has increased the value of commodities that retain their value at all times - commodities like jade, opium, precious stones, and gold.

The civil war has made it unsafe for anyone, whether allied with the Government, with the N.D.F., or neutral, to enter opium-growing areas and provide development assistance to rural people. The war has erased the faith of rural people in central governmental authority.

2. The Economic Policies of the Burmese Government

Under the "Burmese Way to Socialism", the Burmese economy has become dependent on "illegal" cross-border trade. Moreover, the Government's economic policies have made Burmese currency, the kyat, nearly worthless. Traders often substitute Burma's natural resources, including opium, for cash, and trade them for consumer goods at the Thai border. The uncertain value of Burmese currency was demonstrated in 1965, in 1985, and again in September of 1987 when the Government cancelled all large denomination kyat notes and refused to reimburse most citizens who held these notes. At least opium, for all its destructive properties, can never be demonetized.

Under Ne Win, the central Government has demanded an exorbitant quota of rice from Burmese farmers, forcing them to sell it for below market value. Many farmers must buy rice on the black market, which they then resell to the Government to meet their quota. To make up the difference, many earn money by growing opium.

3. Government Corruption

Burmese Government officials have profited immensely from black market trade. Private opium traders have always been permitted to travel down Government-controlled roads in exchange for payoffs and for information on Government opponents. Opium trading militias have been tolerated by the Government as long as they agree to serve as a buffer between the Burmese Army and the N.D.F. forces. The army has never made a serious effort to attack major heroin refining operations along the Thai Border. In fact, in the spring of 1988, a heroin refinery was discovered under a local primary school in Lashio after a fire destroyed a large section of the town leaving over 20,000 people homeless. It is inconceivable that local officials and Burma Army commanders were not involved in the operation.

Instead of working to alleviate these problems, the United States has sponsored an aerial eradication campaign conducted by the Burma Army (now, thankfully, suspended after the brutal suppression of the Burmese popular uprising in recent months. Until 1985, Bell helicopters were tilted to the

Burmese Army for anti-drug operations. But these helicopters began appearing in parts of the country that were far from the opium routes, and two were shot down in combat action with the Karen National Union, so the United States began providing Turbothrush fixed-wing aircraft, to which it retained title.

The program has not deterred farmers from growing opium when they have had no other alternative. It merely drove them into safer and more isolated areas. In fact, some farmers doubled their opium crops out of fear that some could be eradicated.

The Government used the program as a counter-insurgency weapon, to depopulate areas where support for the opposition is high (although a simple payment to a local military official often protected villagers from spraying).

Farmers usually grow other crops, including mustard greens, amaranth, peas, beans, soybeans, potatoes, and cheroot tobacco interspersed with poppies. After a spraying operation these vegetable crops, and often the animals they are fed to, die as well.

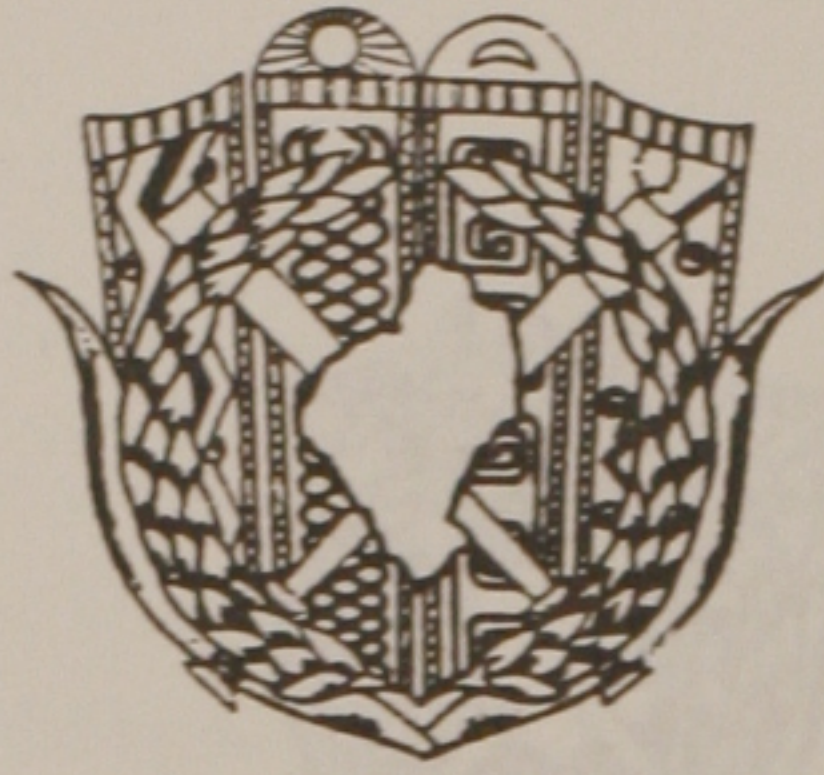
Finally, and most importantly, the eradication program allied the United States with one of the most brutal governments in the world. Sadly, the Government has used American support for the program to legitimize its counter-insurgency campaign. The farmers who grow opium are not America's enemies. Though only a tiny fraction of the billions of dollars spent on heroin by drug addicts in the U.S. reaches them, they are dependent on the pittance they receive for their opium crop for survival. They really mean no one harm. If they are treated right, they could one day become America's greatest friends.

If opium is to be eliminated from Burma, the following conditions must be met:

1. The civil war must be brought to an end.
2. A democratic government must be installed, serving a federated Union of Burma that can regain the faith of rural and ethnic people.
3. Burmese currency must be made stable and convertible for international and internal commerce.
4. Fair market prices must be offered for legitimate agricultural products.
5. Crop replacement programs must be established, including education, health and infrastructure development in the highlands, so that food crops can be grown, transported, and sold profitably.

These are the goals for which the K.I.O. and the N.D.F. stands. These are the goals for which the N.D.F. is willing to negotiate, in a neutral location and under international observation.

When the civil war ends, and if sound economic development and crop substitution measures fail to control opium production within a reasonable period of time, the leadership of the ethnic minority people represented by the K.I.O. and the N.D.F. will support an aerial poppy eradication program, assuming it can be proven that it is safe and careful consideration is given to its impact on the environment. Only after peace and economic stability are restored in Burma could such a program be effective. Only then would United States' sponsorship of such a program be consistent with the values America professes to those of us who admire it so much.



CENTRAL COMMITTEE
KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

July 4, 1990

To Whom It May Concern

In view of the overwhelming victory of our colleagues in the National League for Democracy in recent elections in Burma, and the impending settlement of the civil war, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)/Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) deems it appropriate to enter into negotiations with commercial interests pursuant to the economic development of the country.

As James and George Pittaway are known to us for number of years and somewhat acquainted with our policy and development goals, I hereby authorize them to contact, screen and commence discussion with relevant commercial interests on behalf of the KIO/DAB.

Such discussions may include commercial interests now engaged in activities under the present regime as well as corporations which wish to position themselves favorably in a post settlement environment.

As all parties in the movement are committed to a rational, responsible and free market economy, we welcome thoughtful and realistic proposals for the mutually beneficial development of our vast and untapped natural and human resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Brang Seng', is written over a horizontal line.

M. BRANG SENG
Chairman, KIO
Vice Chairman, DAB



CENTRAL COMMITTEE
KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ORGANIZATION

Manerplaw

January 8, 1990

NEWS RELEASE

UPDATE ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENT IN
THE KACHIN AND NORTHERN SHAN STATES

While a major offensive is expected soon along the Thai-Burma border aimed at destabilising the newly-formed National Coalition Government, several significant Burma Army initiatives have already begun against the Kachin Independence Army in the Kachin and Northern Shan States.

Approximately 17,000 Burmese troops are deployed in the KIA 2nd Brigade area around Phakant, the hub of the jade industry and the source of major gas and oil find in an attempt to wrest control of what is essentially the bread-basket of the Kachin people. It is understood the SLORC junta needs these precious commodities to pay for the over 1 billion dollar foreign arms purchase. Simultaneously, the Burma Army is intent on opening up the cross-border trade with China along the KIA-controlled areas and hence coming into direct confrontation with the KIA base areas.

On December 11, the strategic Burma Army outpost on the Na Hpaw-Sima salient was captured by the KIA. Thought to be impregnable to assault, the garrison was overrun by the KIA's 3rd Brigade Special Commando Unit. On January 4, the Burma Army began a two-hour artillery and mortar barrage against the KIA position. The KIA then executed a counter-attack on the enemies' flank, forcing them to withdraw in complete disarray and upon entering the position 14 enemy dead were found. Between January 5 and 6, three subsequent counter attacks by the Burma Army failed to dislodge the KIA position and after suffering further heavy losses, were forced to retreat.

Casualties inflicted on Burma Army regiments 11, 15 and 104 between December 11 through 31st accounted for 209 confirmed killed plus a very large number of wounded. The KIA lost 28 dead and 34 wounded.

Meanwhile in the KIA 4th Brigade area of the northern Shan State the Burma Army has begun a program of relocation of villagers in strategic hamlets which has caused alarm and suffering among people unaccustomed to leaving their homes that are mostly built around rice farms. The concept has been applied to the Kachin State as far back as 1965 but most of the villagers have since escaped to remote valleys and mountains to eke out a living. The prospect for the people in the Shan State is bleak since outside of the farms the land is arid and unproductive. Moreover, the people have been warned that they risk death should they attempt to escape.

TEL No.

Jan. 7, 91 22:44 P.02